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## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***Two New Commissioners Appointed to the Board of the Tennessee Human Rights Commission***

(NASHVILLE, TN -- July, 2004) –Governor Bredesen has appointed Reverend Samuel “Billy” Kyles and Reverend Robert Earl Jones, I, both of Memphis, to the Board of Commissioners of the Tennessee Human Rights Commission.

Reverend Billy Kyle, a renowned national speaker with numerous honors and awards, has served as pastor of Monumental Baptist Church in Memphis since 1959. He is recognized as a resource on the Civil Rights Movement. He was appointed by the Clinton Administration to serve on the Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad and as a panelist at the White House Conference on Hate Crimes. Kyle was recently appointed by Lieutenant Governor Wilder to serve on the Tennessee Judicial Selection Committee.

Reverend Jones, a native of Memphis, has served as pastor of the Hill Chapel Missionary Baptist Church since July, 1984, increasing the churches’ membership of 200 to over 2,500. He is the Western Regional President for the Tennessee BM&E Convention, an instructor in the Memphis District

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Association and a faculty staff member for the National Baptist Congress, USA, Inc. Jones is on the Board of Directors with Youth Villages, a non-profit organization that provides mental health services to children and families. He was appointed to a Minister's Advisory Board for Governor Bredesen.

"These accomplished men have had profound effects, spiritually and economically, on the state and its citizens," said Spencer Wiggins, Chairman of the Tennessee Board of Commissioners. "I'm confident that they will contribute greatly to the agency and its mission of ensuring equality in the workplaces and communities across the state."

The Tennessee Human Rights Commission is governed by a 15 member board of commissioners. The Commissioners, appointed on a nonpartisan basis, serve six year terms.

The commission's role, by means of enforcement and education, is to safeguard the citizens of Tennessee from discrimination in the areas of employment, housing and public accommodation in regard to race, creed, color, religion, sex, disability, age (over 40), national origin, and familial status.

For more information on the THRC, its role, policies or the laws that govern the agency, call 1-800-325-9664 or visit the agency's website at [www.state.tn.us/humanrights/](http://www.state.tn.us/humanrights/).